

The Honorable Richard A. Jones

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
v.
BERNARD ROSS HANSEN,
Defendant.

NO. CR18-092RAJ

SUPPLEMENT TO GOVERNMENT'S SENTENCING MEMORANDUM

BERNARD ROSS HANSEN,

Defendant.

Ross Hansen committed a multi-million-dollar fraud that ended in 2016. After years of delays, he was convicted by a jury and faced sentencing on April 29, 2022. But Mr. Hansen thumbed his nose at the law one more time – he failed to appear and led the FBI on an 11-day manhunt across Western Washington. When he was finally arrested on May 10, he possessed three loaded firearms. Mr. Hansen should be sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment.

I. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Mr. Hansen was scheduled to be sentenced on April 29, 2022. Defendants did not appear for sentencing. The Court issued arrest warrants. The FBI went to Defendants' rental home in Auburn, Washington and learned that Defendants had fled. *See* Declaration of Special Agent Williamson, filed herewith.

Defendants remained on the run for 11 days while the FBI searched for them. The FBI learned that Defendants had switched from their previous vehicle to a 2005 Mazda

1 MPV minivan. Williamson Declaration at ¶ 3. The FBI learned that Defendants had
 2 traveled from Auburn, to Federal Way, to Bremerton, and eventually to Port Hadlock,
 3 Washington. Williamson Declaration at ¶ 3. After a tip, law enforcement eventually
 4 located Defendants at the Port Hadlock Motel, and they were arrested on May 10, 2022.
 5 Ms. Erdmann was arrested while visiting an office connected to the motel and Mr.
 6 Hansen was arrested while walking their dog. Williamson Declaration at ¶ 4.

7 After the arrests, agents searched the Mazda MPV that Defendants were using to
 8 flee. They observed a cardboard box on the floor of the van behind the front seats but
 9 within reaching distance of the front seats. Williamson Declaration at ¶ 5-6. The box
 10 contained three loaded handguns. Williamson Declaration at ¶ 7.

11 **II. GOVERNMENT'S SENTENCING RECOMMENDATION**

12 The government recommends that Mr. Hansen be sentenced to 16 years'
 13 imprisonment. This is an increased recommendation from its earlier sentencing memo,
 14 where it recommended 15 years' imprisonment.¹ A lengthy sentence for Mr. Hansen is
 15 appropriate for the reasons discussed in the government's initial sentencing memorandum
 16 (Dkt. #448) – because of the nature and circumstances of the offense, particularly the
 17 extent of the harm it caused to more than 3000 victims, and because of the need to deter
 18 similarly situated defendants, and the need for the sentence to be consistent with other
 19 similarly situated defendants.

20 And a lengthy sentence is necessary in this case because of Mr. Hansen's
 21 characteristics, specifically his lack of respect for the law and his refusal to take
 22 responsibility for his actions. *See* 18 U.S.C. §3553(a). These characteristics were
 23 displayed prominently in Hansen's decision to flee.

24
 25
 26 ¹ The government notes that the Probation Office has increased its sentencing recommendation to 120 months'
 27 imprisonment, citing Section 3553(a) factors including the need for specific and general deterrence, just punishment
 28 for the offense, and the need to protect the community. The government agrees with the reasoning of the probation
 recommendation, but not the recommended sentence.

1 Mr. Hansen's flight was one more self-serving act consistent with how he operated
 2 NWTM. Mr. Hansen ran NWTM like his own personal piggy bank and used customer
 3 money for his own benefit and not for the customers' benefit. His sentencing memo
 4 depicted him as someone who "lack[ed] personal greed" and only wanted to "make good
 5 on his obligations" (*see* Hansen Sentencing Memo at 7) but the Court has seen that Mr.
 6 Hansen is only motivated by his own needs.

7 Further, Mr. Hansen's flight from law enforcement undercuts his argument that his
 8 multiple chronic medical conditions prevent him from serving a prison sentence. As an
 9 initial matter, the Probation Office recognized that Mr. Hansen's medical conditions can
 10 be treated in the Bureau of Prisons. The medical records supplied by Mr. Hansen at the
 11 time of the original sentencing do not change this analysis. Indeed, Mr. Hansen's flight
 12 across Western Washington, leaving his physician, staying in hotels, and arming himself
 13 with three loaded guns, demonstrate that he was perfectly able to make the "lifestyle
 14 adjustments" that he claimed he could not. *See* Hansen Sentencing Memo at 9 (claiming
 15 that prison will require Mr. Hansen to make difficult "lifestyle adjustments").

16 Finally, the Court should impose a 16-year sentence to protect the public from Mr.
 17 Hansen. The need to prevent Mr. Hansen from committing economic harm was
 18 addressed in the previous sentencing memo. Recent events have shown that Mr. Hansen
 19 also presents a danger of violence. When he was apprehended by law enforcement in
 20 Port Hadlock, he was traveling with three loaded firearms in reaching distance of the
 21 front seat of his vehicle. Mr. Hansen was prohibited from carrying these firearms
 22 because he is a convicted felon, because he was on pretrial release, and because he was
 23 fleeing from his sentencing hearing. The combination of firearms and a desperate flight
 24 could have led to tragedy.

25 In short, Mr. Hansen has refused to take any responsibility for the damage he
 26 caused with NWTM and his self-serving approach has continued throughout this case.
 27 He deserves a significant, 16-year sentence.

28 //

III. CONCLUSION

The government respectfully recommends that the Court sentence Ross Hansen to 16 years' imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release. The government also requests that Mr. Hansen be ordered to pay \$33,744,166.92 in restitution.

Dated this 31st day of May 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

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